Spelling Assistance

Description of Designated Support

This designated support provides various types of spelling assistance for a student with a disability.

Assessments

For a student who meets the eligibility criteria, this designated support may be used on

- STAAR grades 4 and 7 writing, English I, English II, and English III (written composition **ONLY**)
- STAAR Spanish grade 4 writing (written composition **ONLY**)
- TELPAS grades 2–12 writing

Student Eligibility Criteria

A student may use this designated support if he or she

- ❏ receives Section 504 or special education services,
- ❏ routinely, independently, and effectively uses it during classroom instruction and classroom testing, and
- ❏ is capable of organizing and developing ideas and understands the basic function and use of written language conventions (e.g., sentence structures, irregular verbs) but has a disability that is so severe that he or she cannot apply basic spelling rules or word patterns (e.g., silent letters, base words with affixes) to written responses.

Authority for Decision and Required Documentation

- For a student receiving Section 504 services, the decision is made by the Section 504 committee based on the eligibility criteria and is documented in the student's IAP.
- For a student receiving special education services, the decision is made by the ARD committee based on the eligibility criteria and is documented in the student's IEP.
- In the case of an ELL with a disability, the decision is made by the applicable group above in conjunction with the student's LPAC. The decision is to be documented by the LPAC in the student's permanent record file and by the other applicable group, as described above.
- After state testing, DS must be recorded in the ACCOMM. field on the student's answer document. This indicates that an allowable designated support was made available to the student. This embedded support is automatically recorded in the STAAR Assessment Management System.

Examples/Types

This designated support may include **only**

- visual sound cards
- frequently misspelled word list (e.g., student-made, teacher-made, commercially produced)
- spell-check function on a word processor or as an online embedded support on STAAR
- pocket spell-checker
- word-prediction software
- text-to-speech software or devices
- speech-to-text software, applications, or devices

Special Instructions/Considerations

1. A student who uses this designated support may complete the test in a separate setting to eliminate distractions to other students and to ensure the confidentiality of the test.
2. The use of spelling assistance as a designated support on STAAR should not replace the teaching of spelling skills as outlined in the TEKS.
3. Dictionaries are a required part of standard test administration procedures for some state assessments. For more information, refer to the STAAR Dictionary Policy on the TEA's STAAR Resources webpage. For these assessments, any spelling assistance listed in the Examples/Types section may be provided, along with the required dictionary, to a student who meets the eligibility criteria.
4. The spell check feature will be available in spring 2018 as a new online embedded support on STAAR for eligible students who use this type of spelling assistance.
5. If a student needs his or her typed response transcribed onto an answer document or into the STAAR Assessment Management System for online administrations, refer to the Basic Transcribing policy.
6. Districts are required to have procedures in place to prevent the use of personal cell phones and electronic devices during test administrations. If TEA allowed or approved technology-based accommodations are used by a student during testing, TEA guidelines on the use of this technology must be followed in order to maintain the security and validity of the assessment. Although some technology may be very useful during a daily academic setting, technology that has functionality that violates TEA guidelines cannot be used during a state assessment. These technology guidelines for state assessments can be found on the Accommodation Resources webpage.